

Innovative Partnerships Program

*Providing leveraged technology for Mission Directorates,
Programs and Projects through investments and
technology partnerships with Industry, Academia,
Government Agencies and National Laboratories.*

KSC Discretionary Funds Call for Proposals – 2009

June 29, 2009

KSC IPP Discretionary Fund

Internal Call for Proposals

Background

The KSC Innovative Partnerships Program (IPP) Office provides leveraged technology for KSC Directorates, Programs and Projects through investments and technology partnerships with industry, academia, government agencies and national laboratories. As one of NASA's Mission Support Offices, IPP supports all four Mission Directorates.

IPP partnership goals include providing for an increased range of technology solutions, a broadened technology portfolio, improved cost avoidance, accelerated development and maturation of technologies and a larger pool of qualified commercial providers.

Solicitation of Abstracts and Proposals

This call is soliciting proposals from KSC civil servants for cost-shared partnerships with industry, academia, research institutions, national laboratories and other government agencies for joint development of technology. Employees should submit their ideas to the IPP Office in the form of a quad chart. The quad chart is available at the following address: <http://technology.ksc.nasa.gov/static/pdfs/IPPDIscretionaryFundsQuadChart.ppt>. Project proposals, due for submission by July 26, 2009, must include one or more non-NASA partners who are committed to cost-share at a desired level at least equal to, or greater than, the Seed Fund funding awarded to the project. Partnerships will be formalized through the use of Space Act Agreements to document stated objectives and deliverables from each party, capture intellectual property rights, etc. Modifications to existing contracts, grants and cooperative agreements are also acceptable.

The IPP Office at Kennedy Space Centers, in coordination with the KSC High Priority Needs List stakeholder committee members, will select between 5 and 7 proposals for funding. The maximum amount of funding for each project will be \$75,000. Proposals requesting a lower amount of funding are encouraged and an evaluation of the cost versus the expected benefit of each proposal will be a factor in selection.

Funding provided may be utilized for small procurements (equipment, supplies, etc.), modifications to existing contracts and travel. Awards from this call are not meant to fund civil-service FTEs. **All funds for the projects selected under this call shall be obligated before September 30, 2009.**

The performance period for the selected projects will begin as soon as selections are announced, expected to be around August 4, 2009. There will be approximately one year available for work on these projects.

Cost-Share Requirements

The IPP Seed Fund seeks to fund highly leveraged partnerships where the costs, risks, benefits and outcomes are shared by all parties involved. The leveraging of resources is desirable and will weigh on the selection of awards. The following guidelines have been established for contributions by each party:

Non-NASA Partner – Proposed projects must include one or more non-NASA partners who are committed to cost-share at a desired level at least equal to, or greater than, the proposed NASA funding for the project. A partner's contribution could be less than the NASA funding on a by-exception basis based on value of the project. Acceptable cost-sharing from the partner excludes any sunk costs and includes only actual dollars applied directly to the project, in-kind considerations such as workforce labor and the use of unique and dedicated facilities and 4 testbeds. *Monetary valuation of partner in-kind facility and/or testbed access should be based solely on actual costs incurred by the partner in the performance of the proposed project, and should not reflect the partner's original capital expenditure for construction of the subject facilities and/or testbeds.*

NASA Program or Project – Contributions from the Program, Project and/or Center involved in performance of the partnership is also highly desired. These NASA contributions may be in the form of direct funding toward the partnership, funded FTEs or the use of unique and dedicated facilities and testbeds in support of the partnership. *Monetary valuation of NASA in-kind facility and/or testbed access should be based solely on actual costs incurred by the NASA Program, Project, or Center in the performance of the proposed Discretionary Fund project, and should not reflect NASA's original capital expenditure for construction of the subject facilities and/or testbeds.* **At the very least, a letter of endorsement from the NASA program or project benefitting from the technical advancements by the proposed project is required.**

Scope & Proposal Selection Criteria

This call will focus on technologies that address KSC needs as documented on the High Priority Needs List (KDP-KSC-S-1162), as well as any other identified KSC program needs.

The following criteria will be used to evaluate the proposals. The criteria will all carry approximately equal weight in the selection process.

1. **Relevance and Value to KSC/NASA** – The idea's relevance to future KSC/NASA missions and goals. The value of the idea relative to the investment required.
2. **Technical Merit** – The soundness of the scientific and engineering principles on which the idea is based and its viability as a future project for NASA.
3. **Quality of the Proposal** – The completeness of the proposal in terms of communicating what has to be done to achieve stated project objectives.
4. **Team Experience** - The appropriate technical knowledge and experience of those who will work on this project.
5. **Cost-Shared Partnership** – The level of partnership proposed and the amount leveraged.

Reporting Requirements

Selected project teams will be required to submit a project status note at the end of each month. Project teams will submit a final written report and be prepared to present the results of the project within one week of the completion of the project performance period or no later than August 16, 2010.

The final project report, as a minimum, should include the following sections:

- Background: summary of the idea, technology or process and how the topic of the project will impact NASA goals or other national or global needs
- Approach: an outline of the specific objectives of the project: the analysis, testing or other tasks undertaken
- Results: the results of analysis, testing and other tasks, conclusions and recommendations
- Future Expectations: potential for follow-on activity, new partnerships, interest external to NASA.

Schedule

Call for Proposals:	June 26, 2009
Proposals Due:	July 26, 2009
Proposal Review:	July 26-30, 2009
Project Team Presentations/Q&A:	July 31, 2009 (tentative)
Selection Announcement:	August 4, 2009
Period of Performance:	Begin August 4 and end no later than August 6, 2010

Proposal Format

Each proposal shall be limited to the quad chart, letters of commitment and/or endorsement from partner and customer. Proposals that are incomplete may not be considered.

A representative of the project is expected to present a brief overview on the proposal and participate in a question and answer session with the selection committee tentatively scheduled for July 31st.

Proposal Submission

Each proposal shall be forwarded by electronic mail to: alexis.hongamen-1@nasa.gov no later than 5:00pm EDT, Sunday July 26th, 2009. Proposals after this time will not be considered.

Each proposal shall be in one pdf file and the email shall be titled "FY2009 KSC IPP Discretionary Fund."